

**PART VII  
STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP**

**420.907 Short title.**

**420.9071 Definitions.**

**420.9072 State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.**

**420.9073 Local housing distributions.**

**420.9075 Local housing assistance plans; partnerships.**

**420.9076 Adoption of affordable housing incentive strategies; committees.**

**420.9079 Local Government Housing Trust Fund.**

**420.907 Short title.**—Sections 420.907-420.9079 may be cited as the “State Housing Initiatives Partnership Act.”

**History.**—s. 32, ch. 92-317.

**420.9071 Definitions.**—As used in ss. 420.907-420.9079, the term:

(1) “Adjusted for family size” means adjusted in a manner that results in an income eligibility level that is lower for households having fewer than four people, or higher for households having more than four people, than the base income eligibility determined as provided in subsection (19), subsection (20), or subsection (28), based upon a formula established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) “Affordable” means that monthly rents or monthly mortgage payments including taxes and insurance do not exceed 30 percent of that amount which represents the percentage of the median annual gross income for the households as indicated in subsection (19), subsection (20), or subsection (28). However, it is not the intent to limit an individual household’s ability to devote more than 30 percent of its income for housing, and housing for which a household devotes more than 30 percent of its income shall be deemed affordable if the first institutional mortgage lender is satisfied that the household can afford mortgage payments in excess of the 30 percent benchmark.

(3) “Affordable housing advisory committee” means the committee appointed by the governing body of a county or eligible municipality for the purpose of recommending specific initiatives and incentives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing as provided in s. 420.9076.

(4) “Annual gross income” means annual income as defined under the Section 8 housing assistance payments programs in 24 C.F.R. part 5; annual income as reported under the census long form for the recent available decennial census; or adjusted gross income as defined for purposes of reporting under Internal Revenue Service Form 1040 for individual federal annual income tax purposes or as defined by standard practices used in the lending industry as detailed in the local housing assistance plan and approved by the corporation. Counties and eligible municipalities shall calculate income by annualizing verified sources of income for the household as the amount of income to be received in a household during the 12 months following the effective date of the determination.

(5) “Award” means a loan, grant, or subsidy funded wholly or partially by the local housing assistance trust fund.

(6) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit organization that has among its purposes the provision of affordable housing to persons who have special needs or have very low income, low income, or moderate income within a designated area, which may include a municipality, a county, or more than one municipality or county, and maintains, through a minimum of one-third representation on the organization's governing board, accountability to housing program beneficiaries and residents of the designated area. A community housing development organization established pursuant to 24 C.F.R. s. 92.2 and a community development corporation created pursuant to chapter 290 are examples of community-based organizations.

(7) "Corporation" means the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

(8) "Eligible housing" means any real and personal property located within the county or the eligible municipality which is designed and intended for the primary purpose of providing decent, safe, and sanitary residential units that are designed to meet the standards of the Florida Building Code or previous building codes adopted under chapter 553, or manufactured housing constructed after June 1994 and installed in accordance with the installation standards for mobile or manufactured homes contained in rules of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, for home ownership or rental for eligible persons as designated by each county or eligible municipality participating in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.

(9) "Eligible municipality" means a municipality that is eligible for federal community development block grant entitlement moneys as an entitlement community identified in 24 C.F.R. s. 570, subpart D, Entitlement Grants, or a nonentitlement municipality that is receiving local housing distribution funds under an interlocal agreement that provides for possession and administrative control of funds to be transferred to the nonentitlement municipality. An eligible municipality that defers its participation in community development block grants does not affect its eligibility for participation in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.

(10) "Eligible person" or "eligible household" means one or more natural persons or a family determined by the county or eligible municipality to be of very low income, low income, or moderate income according to the income limits adjusted to family size published annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development based upon the annual gross income of the household.

(11) "Eligible sponsor" means a person or a private or public for-profit or not-for-profit entity that applies for an award under the local housing assistance plan for the purpose of providing eligible housing for eligible persons.

(12) "Grant" means an award from the local housing assistance trust fund to an eligible sponsor or eligible person to partially assist in the construction, rehabilitation, or financing of eligible housing or to provide the cost of tenant or ownership qualifications without requirement for repayment as long as the condition of award is maintained.

(13) "Loan" means an award from the local housing assistance trust fund to an eligible sponsor or eligible person to partially finance the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of eligible housing with requirement for repayment or provision for forgiveness of repayment if the condition of the award is maintained.

(14) **"Local housing assistance plan"** means a concise description of the local housing assistance strategies and local housing incentive strategies adopted by local government resolution with an explanation of the way in which the program meets the requirements of ss. 420.907-420.9079 and corporation rule.

(15) "Local housing assistance strategies" means the housing construction, rehabilitation, repair, or finance program implemented by a participating county or eligible municipality with the local housing distribution or other funds deposited into the local housing assistance trust fund.

(16) **"Local housing incentive strategies"** means local regulatory reform or incentive programs to encourage or facilitate affordable housing production, which include at a minimum, assurance that permits as defined in s. 163.3164 for affordable housing projects are expedited to a greater degree than other projects; an ongoing process for review of local policies, ordinances, regulations, and plan provisions that increase the cost of housing prior to their adoption; and a schedule for implementing the incentive strategies. Local housing incentive strategies may also include other regulatory reforms, such as those enumerated in s. 420.9076 or those recommended by the affordable housing advisory committee in its triennial evaluation of the implementation of affordable housing incentives, and adopted by the local governing body.

(17) "Local housing distributions" means the proceeds of the taxes collected under chapter 201 deposited into the Local Government Housing Trust Fund and distributed to counties and eligible municipalities participating in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program pursuant to s. 420.9073.

(18) "Local housing partnership" means the implementation of the local housing assistance plan in a manner that involves the applicable county or eligible municipality, lending institutions, housing builders and developers, real estate professionals, advocates for low-income persons, community-based housing and service organizations, and providers of professional services relating to affordable housing. The term includes initiatives to provide support services for housing program beneficiaries such as training to prepare persons for the responsibility of homeownership, counseling of tenants, and the establishing of support services such as day care, health care, and transportation.

(19) "Low-income person" or "low-income household" means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 80 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households within the metropolitan statistical area, the county, or the nonmetropolitan median for the state, whichever amount is greatest. With respect to rental units, the low-income household's annual income at the time of initial occupancy may not exceed 80 percent of the area's median income adjusted for family size. While occupying the rental unit, a low-income household's annual income may increase to an amount not to exceed 140 percent of 80 percent of the area's median income adjusted for family size.

(20) "Moderate-income person" or "moderate-income household" means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 120 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households within the metropolitan statistical area, the county, or the nonmetropolitan median for the state, whichever is greatest. With respect to rental units, the moderate-income household's annual income at the time of initial occupancy may not exceed 120 percent of the area's median income adjusted for family size. While occupying the rental unit, a moderate-income household's annual income may increase to an amount not to exceed 140 percent of 120 percent of the area's median income adjusted for family size.

(21) "Personal property" means major appliances, including a freestanding refrigerator or stove, to be identified on the encumbering documents.



(22) "Plan amendment" means the addition or deletion of a local housing assistance strategy or local housing incentive strategy. Plan amendments must at all times maintain consistency with program requirements and must be submitted to the corporation for review pursuant to s. 420.9072(3). Technical or clarifying revisions may not be considered plan amendments but must be transmitted to the corporation for purposes of notification.

(23) "Population" means the latest official state estimate of population certified pursuant to s. 186.901 prior to the beginning of the state fiscal year.

(24) "Program income" means the proceeds derived from interest earned on or investment of the local housing distribution and other funds deposited into the local housing assistance trust fund, proceeds from loan repayments, recycled funds, and all other income derived from use of funds deposited in the local housing assistance trust fund. It does not include recaptured funds as defined in subsection (25).

(25) "Recaptured funds" means funds that are recouped by a county or eligible municipality in accordance with the recapture provisions of its local housing assistance plan pursuant to s. 420.9075(5)(h) from eligible persons or eligible sponsors, which funds were not used for assistance to an eligible household for an eligible activity, when there is a default on the terms of a grant award or loan award.

(26) "Rent subsidies" means ongoing monthly rental assistance. The term does not include initial assistance to tenants, such as grants or loans for security and utility deposits.

(27) "Sales price" or "value" means, in the case of acquisition of an existing or newly constructed unit, the amount on the executed sales contract. For eligible persons who are building a unit on land that they own, the sales price is determined by an appraisal performed by a state-certified appraiser. The appraisal must include the value of the land and the improvements using the after-construction value of the property and must be dated within 12 months of the date construction is to commence. The sales price of any unit must include the value of the land in order to qualify as eligible housing as defined in subsection (8). In the case of rehabilitation or emergency repair of an existing unit that does not create additional living space, sales price or value means the value of the real property, as determined by an appraisal performed by a state-certified appraiser and dated within 12 months of the date construction is to commence or the assessed value of the real property as determined by the county property appraiser. In the case of rehabilitation of an existing unit that includes the addition of new living space, sales price or value means the value of the real property, as determined by an appraisal performed by a state-certified appraiser and dated within 12 months of the date construction is to commence or the assessed value of the real property as determined by the county property appraiser, plus the cost of the improvements in either case.

(28) "Very-low-income person" or "very-low-income household" means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 50 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households within the metropolitan statistical area, the county, or the nonmetropolitan median for the state, whichever is greatest. With respect to rental units, the very-low-income household's annual income at the time of initial occupancy may not exceed 50 percent of the area's median income adjusted for family size. While occupying the rental unit, a very-low-income household's annual income may increase to an amount not to exceed 140 percent of 50 percent of the area's median income adjusted for family size.

(29) "Assisted housing" or "assisted housing development" means a rental housing development, including rental housing in a mixed-use development, that received or currently receives funding from any federal or state housing program.

(30) "Preservation" means actions taken to keep rents in existing assisted housing affordable for extremely-low-income, very-low-income, low-income, and moderate-income households while ensuring that the property stays in good physical and financial condition for an extended period.

History.—s. 32, ch. 92-317; s. 12, ch. 93-181; s. 3, ch. 96-332; s. 1046, ch. 97-103; s. 34, ch. 97-167; s. 14, ch. 98-56; s. 14, ch. 2000-353; s. 21, ch. 2006-69; s. 26, ch. 2009-96; s. 12, ch. 2011-15; s. 66, ch. 2011-139.

\* \* \*

#### **420.9076 Adoption of affordable housing incentive strategies; committees.—**

(1) Each county or eligible municipality participating in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, including a municipality receiving program funds through the county, or an eligible municipality must, within 12 months after the original adoption of the local housing assistance plan, amend the plan to include local housing incentive strategies as defined in s. 420.9071(16).

(2) The governing board of a county or municipality shall appoint the members of the affordable housing advisory committee by resolution. Pursuant to the terms of any interlocal agreement, a county and municipality may create and jointly appoint an advisory committee to prepare a joint plan. The ordinance adopted pursuant to s. 420.9072 which creates the advisory committee or the resolution appointing the advisory committee members must provide for 11 committee members and their terms. The committee must include:

- (a) One citizen who is actively engaged in the residential home building industry in connection with affordable housing.
- (b) One citizen who is actively engaged in the banking or mortgage banking industry in connection with affordable housing.
- (c) One citizen who is a representative of those areas of labor actively engaged in home building in connection with affordable housing.
- (d) One citizen who is actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing.
- (e) One citizen who is actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing.
- (f) One citizen who is actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing.
- (g) One citizen who is actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing.

(h) One citizen who actively serves on the local planning agency pursuant to s. 163.3174. If the local planning agency is comprised of the governing board of the county or municipality, the governing board may appoint a designee who is knowledgeable in the local planning process.

(i) One citizen who resides within the jurisdiction of the local governing body making the appointments.

(j) One citizen who represents employers within the jurisdiction.

(k) One citizen who represents essential services personnel, as defined in the local housing assistance plan.

If a county or eligible municipality whether due to its small size, the presence of a conflict of interest by prospective appointees, or other reasonable factor, is unable to appoint a citizen actively engaged in these activities in connection with affordable housing, a citizen engaged in the activity without regard to affordable housing may be appointed. Local governments that receive the minimum allocation under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program may elect to appoint an affordable housing advisory committee with fewer than 11 representatives if they are unable to find representatives who meet the criteria of paragraphs (a)-(k).

(3) All meetings of the advisory committee are public meetings, and all committee records are public records. Staff, administrative, and facility support to the advisory committee shall be provided by the appointing county or eligible municipality.

**(4) Triennially, the advisory committee shall review the established policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and adopted local government comprehensive plan of the appointing local government and shall recommend specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value.** The recommendations may include the modification or repeal of existing policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations, or plan provisions; the creation of exceptions applicable to affordable housing; or the adoption of new policies, procedures, regulations, ordinances, or plan provisions, including recommendations to amend the local government comprehensive plan and corresponding regulations, ordinances, and other policies. At a minimum, each advisory committee shall submit a report to the local governing body that includes recommendations on, and triennially thereafter **evaluates the implementation of,** affordable housing incentives in the following areas:

(a) The processing of approvals of development orders or permits, as defined in s. 163.3164, for affordable housing projects is expedited to a greater degree than other projects.

(b) The modification of impact-fee requirements, including reduction or waiver of fees and alternative methods of fee payment for affordable housing.

(c) The allowance of flexibility in densities for affordable housing.

(d) The reservation of infrastructure capacity for housing for very-low-income persons, low-income persons, and moderate-income persons.

(e) The allowance of affordable accessory residential units in residential zoning districts.

(f) The reduction of parking and setback requirements for affordable housing.

(g) The allowance of flexible lot configurations, including zero-lot-line configurations for affordable housing.



(h) The modification of street requirements for affordable housing.

(i) The establishment of a process by which a local government considers, before adoption, policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations, or plan provisions that increase the cost of housing.

(j) The preparation of a printed inventory of locally owned public lands suitable for affordable housing.

(k) The support of development near transportation hubs and major employment centers and mixed-use developments.

The advisory committee recommendations may also include other affordable housing incentives identified by the advisory committee. Local governments that receive the minimum allocation under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program shall perform the initial review but may elect to not perform the triennial review.

(5) The approval by the advisory committee of its local housing incentive strategies recommendations and its review of local government implementation of previously recommended strategies must be made by affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the advisory committee taken at a public hearing. Notice of the time, date, and place of the public hearing of the advisory committee to adopt its evaluation and final local housing incentive strategies recommendations must be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county. The notice must contain a short and concise summary of the evaluation and local housing incentives strategies recommendations to be considered by the advisory committee. The notice must state the public place where a copy of the evaluation and tentative advisory committee recommendations can be obtained by interested persons. The final report, evaluation, and recommendations shall be submitted to the corporation.

(6) Within 90 days after the date of receipt of the evaluation and local housing incentive strategies recommendations from the advisory committee, the governing body of the appointing local government shall adopt an amendment to its local housing assistance plan to incorporate the local housing incentive strategies it will implement within its jurisdiction. The amendment must include, at a minimum, the local housing incentive strategies required under s. 420.9071(16). The local government must consider the strategies specified in paragraphs (4)(a)-(k) as recommended by the advisory committee.

(7) The governing board of the county or the eligible municipality shall notify the corporation by certified mail of its adoption of an amendment of its local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies. The notice must include a copy of the approved amended plan.

(a) If the corporation fails to receive timely the approved amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies, a notice of termination of its share of the local housing distribution shall be sent by certified mail by the corporation to the affected county or eligible municipality. The notice of termination must specify a date of termination of the funding if the affected county or eligible municipality has not adopted an amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies. If the county or the eligible municipality has not adopted an amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies by the termination date specified in the notice of termination, the local distribution share terminates; and any uncommitted local distribution funds held by the affected county or eligible municipality in its local housing assistance trust fund shall be transferred to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to the credit of the corporation to administer the local government housing program.

(b) If a county fails to timely adopt an amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies but an eligible municipality receiving a local housing distribution pursuant to an interlocal agreement within the county does timely adopt an amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies, the corporation, after receipt of a notice of termination, shall thereafter distribute directly to the participating eligible municipality its share calculated in the manner provided in s. 420.9072.

(c) Any county or eligible municipality whose local distribution share has been terminated may subsequently elect to receive directly its local distribution share by adopting an amended local housing assistance plan to incorporate local housing incentive strategies in the manner and according to the procedure provided in this section and by adopting an ordinance in the manner required in s. 420.9072.

(8) The advisory committee may perform other duties at the request of the local government, including:

(a) The provision of mentoring services to affordable housing partners including developers, banking institutions, employers, and others to identify available incentives, assist with applications for funding requests, and develop partnerships between various parties.

(b) The creation of best practices for the development of affordable housing in the community.

(9) The advisory committee shall be cooperatively staffed by the local government department or division having authority to administer local planning or housing programs to ensure an integrated approach to the work of the advisory committee.

History.—s. 32, ch. 92-317; s. 15, ch. 93-181; s. 38, ch. 97-167; s. 24, ch. 2006-69; s. 19, ch. 2007-198; s. 117, ch. 2008-4; s. 30, ch. 2009-96; s. 16, ch. 2011-15; s. 67, ch. 2011-139.